

# NAVIGATING COMMON GROUP DYNAMICS

RADIUS  
**groups**

## When Someone Dominates the Conversation

Well meaning “talkers” crowd out others.

- Redirect: “Thanks for sharing—let’s hear from someone new.”
- Use body language. Turn toward others to invite them in.
- 1-on-1: Affirm them and ask for help creating space for others.

## When Someone Tries to Teach or Take Over

Some turn discussions into mini-sermons.

- Redirect: “Great insight—how does it connect to you?”
- Invite others to share their thoughts next.
- 1-on-1: The goal is shared learning, not teaching.

## When Someone is Very Quiet

Opening up takes time and trust.

- Gently invite: “Ashley, no pressure - would you like to share?”
- Connect outside group to show value.
- Don’t force it - consistency and kindness go a long way.

## When Someone Cries

Tears are a sign of trust.

- Don’t rush it - stay quiet, offer tissues.
- Thank them afterward for being real.
- Let others sit in it, too - don’t interrupt vulnerability.

## When People are Nervous to Pray Out Loud

This is common - don’t assume readiness.

- Start by modeling short, simple prayers.
- Offer options: “If you’d rather pass, that’s okay.”
- 1-on-1: Ask ahead of group if they’d be willing to say a prayer.

## How to Create Vulnerability

It starts with the leader.

- Lead by honesty - be Real.
- Create a grace culture: “We don’t have to have it all together.”
- Affirm vulnerability every time you see it.

## When the Group Gets Off Track

Conversations can drift or spiral.

- Gently redirect: “Great topic - let’s return to the question.”
- Briefly summarize and steer back to the main topic.
- 1-on-1: Talk privately with frequent side-trackers.

## When Someone Shares Something Hard/Heavy

You don’t need a perfect response.

- Stay present and thank them for trusting the group.
- Don’t minimize or spiritualize pain with quick fixes.
- Follow up with them privately if it seems needed.

## When There’s Awkward Silence

Silence shows thinking not failure.

- Give it time before jumping in.
- Try a follow-up question or rephrase if no one responds.
- Remember: depth takes time.

## When There’s a Lack of Engagement

Some may appear distant or disinterested.

- Gently invite: “We’d love to hear your thoughts.”
- Ask engaging questions to draw them in.
- Follow up later to show support.

**Final Encouragement:** Be present, listen, and lead people to Jesus. We don’t need to have all the answers.